(a) whether KVIC proposes to collaborate with the big industrial houses active in the organized retail market to strengthen the rural area economically and financially;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the industrial houses selected so far for the purpose; and

(d) the criteria adopted for selection of these industrial houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Raising of price of sliver cotton by KVIC

3350. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the problems facing the Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) the reasons why Khadi and Village Industries Commission has raised the price of cotton sliver supplied to the khadi production centres from their sliver plants; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to allow subsidy for the cotton used by Khadi sector and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Some of the challenges in the Khadi and village industries are ensuring availability of quality raw materials, adequate credit and professional expertise in marketing. There are six Central Sliver Plants managed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory body under the administrative control of this Ministry. KVIC has constituted an Advisory Committee for each Central Sliver Plant (CSP) for reviewing various issues like requirement of working capital, quality of sliver/roving, pricing of sliver/roving, sales promotion, etc. The main reason for increase in price of cotton slivers from these CSPs is the escalation in prices of raw material. The costing of sliver / roving is worked out on 'no profit no loss' basis after taking into account the cost of raw material, processing costs, consumption of power, salary and wages of the staff and workers etc. As the price of the sliver /roving is calculated on 'no profit no loss' basis at present, there is no plan for reducing the price of cotton sliver.

(c) No, Sir.

Small and medium enterprises in Tamil Nadu

3351. S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of micro, small and medium enterprises in the State of Tamil Nadu;